

## **STATEMENT OF LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI ON THE PASSING OF CONGRESSWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD**

**LOS ANGELES - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi issued the following statement on the passing of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA 37th District) on Sunday, April 22:**

**&quot;I am greatly saddened by the passing of my dear friend of many years, Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald. She was a leader and an extraordinary role model for all of us.**

&quot;Congresswoman Millender-McDonald was a pioneer who had made history time and again on many fronts. She was the first African American woman to chair the powerful Committee on House Administration; the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council; the first woman to chair the California State Assembly's powerful Insurance Committee on Revenue & Taxation; the first African American woman to give the national Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address; and the first Democratic chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's issues.

&quot;As a leading advocate on voter protection, Congresswoman Millender-McDonald made history by calling the first election reform field hearing to investigate widespread voter irregularities and disenfranchisement in Ohio.

&quot;As a fighter for human rights, she worked with former Secretary of State Madeline Albright and Ambassador John Miller on global human trafficking and women's rights issues. She had spoken out against genocide in Cambodia, Darfur, and other regions to fight for human rights and human dignity.

&quot;Congresswoman Millender-McDonald is the embodiment of a heroine who stood up against injustice and inequality abroad and at home. I am humbled to have known her as a dear friend and a colleague. Her work and legacy will not be forgotten.

&quot;On behalf of all Californians, we extend our most sincere sympathy to Congresswoman Millender-McDonald's family and friends. She will be deeply missed.&quot;

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